



Summer 2023 Writing Seminars

The Art of Storytelling: Creative Writing Seminar

Creativity is fundamental to language learning. This writing seminar provides students with an introduction to storytelling that will not only help students tap into their creativity, but will provide them with a solid foundation from which to become better analytical thinkers and writers. Students will develop a positive relationship to writing and learn more about themselves in the process. Seminar participants will explore interesting and engaging themes to help spark their imagination. They will be encouraged to use self-expression, develop critical thinking skills, and gain confidence. Students will read short stories, write in response to a variety of intriguing prompts, and create their own short stories. At Lydian, we believe that every student has a story to tell. We aim to help nurture students' creativity and facilitate an understanding that writing can be a fun endeavor! This workshop is open to both middle and high school students.

Teachers will assess foundations, fill in gaps, and help students to:

- Develop a positive relationship to writing, learn how to use self-expression, and gain confidence as authors
- Engage in dynamic, creative writing tasks, and practice meaningful, structured writing
- Use their imaginations while also learning how to evaluate, summarize, create, and extrapolate
- Develop critical thinking, listening, and reading comprehension skills

Tackling the Formal Essay: Expository Writing Seminar

Many times, students find themselves struggling to write the perfect essay. Some might even experience confusion when it comes to the essay writing process and how to approach writing in general. This seminar will help students develop their formal essay writing skills by systematically breaking down the steps involved in the process. Students will write on topics of interest and will produce four types of formal essays (narrative, descriptive, expository, and argumentative). Students will learn how to effectively brainstorm, outline, draft, and revise a paper. The goal of the seminar is to get students to the point where they feel more confident in their formal essay writing and can use the skills they learn to become self-directed writers in

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their academic courses, and better writers in general. This seminar is open to both middle and high school students.

Teachers will assess foundations, fill in gaps, and help students to:

- Differentiate between formal and informal writing, and learn how to write narrative, descriptive, expository, and argumentative essays
- Understand and break down the writing process in order to make writing more manageable
- Produce essays that have a strong and clear voice, craft effective thesis statements, and gain the confidence required to become self-directed writers
- Understand how to both summarize and analyze, construct productive topic sentences, and learn how to use in-text citations and create bibliographies

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